

VZCZCXRO0145
OO RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDIR RUEHKUK
DE RUEHMO #2835 2661346
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 221346Z SEP 08 ZDS CITE HSD 0199
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0076
INFO RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHDX/MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHII/VIENNA IAEA POSTS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0200
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 1013
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0566
RHMFISS/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0444
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY 0535

S E C R E T MOSCOW 002835

C O R R E C T E D COPY (CORRECTED INVALID DECL DATE)

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR ISN/RA FOR R. NEPHEW AND J. DANIEL, IO/T FOR
1H. VON BEHREN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/23/2018
TAGS: IAEA PARM MNUC AF SY IR KZ RS
SUBJECT: RUSSIA'S VIEW ON GC VOTE ON MESA GROUP SEAT ON
IAEA BOG

REF: STATE 99746

Classified By: DCM Eric Rubin for reasons 1.4 b and d

11. (S) On September 22, DCM and ESToff delivered reftel demarche on U.S. opposition to potential Iranian or Syrian membership on the IAEA Board of Governors (BOG) to Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of Security and Disarmament Affairs Deputy Director Oleg Rozhkov. Rozhkov said that this is not a new issue for Russia or the U.S., recalling that in 2004 the BOG did not support the U.S. proposal to disallow countries under investigation from sitting on the BOG. He stated that Russia agreed with the original U.S. proposal to support Kazakhstan for the Middle East/South Asia (MESA) seat. However, in light of India's concerns (reftel), Rozhkov concurred that Afghanistan would make a good candidate as well.

12. (S) Rozhkov indicated that Russia's position on influencing the IAEA General Conference (GC) to support the U.S. position that Afghanistan should get the seat would be influenced by the potential damage of a divisive vote. He said that Russia would have few chances to block support for Iran or Syria in the GC, as the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) could easily overwhelm any attempt to do so. He added that, in Russia's view, the impact of either Iran or Syria on the BOG would be minimized because BOG membership would give neither much additional leverage to "make noise" at meetings. Rozhkov said that in Russia's opinion, a vote for Iran or Syria would not be a vote of approval for their past or current activities. DCM noted that the U.S. disagrees and would object to Iranian or Syrian membership on grounds of principle, but also because of the precedents it would set. Rozhkov said he understood our position but warned that an overt attempt to influence the vote would set a bad precedent and could backfire with non-aligned members.
BEYRLE